

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for the conversion of a cytosine base, in a nucleic acid to an uracil base comprising:
  - a) providing a solution that contains a nucleic acid,
  - b) providing guanidinium hydrogen sulfite and preparing a solution consisting of aqueous solvent, guanidinium and sulfite ions,
  - c) mixing the solutions from step a) and b),
  - d) incubating the solution obtained in step c) containing the nucleic acid and guanidinium and sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
  - e) incubating the deaminated nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated, and
  - f) isolating the deaminated nucleic acid.
2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of guanidinium ions and sulfite ions is between 0.1 and 8 M.
3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the solutions in step b) and c) is less than 7.0.
4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the temperature of said incubation in step d) and e) is between 0 °C and 90 °C.
5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the time of said incubation in step d) is between 30 min and 48 hours.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein step e) is performed by adding an alkaline solution or buffer, or a solution containing ethanol, sodium chloride and sodium hydroxide.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of said incubation in step e) is between 0 °C and 90 °C.
8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the time of said incubation in step e) is between 5 min and 60 min.

9 – 14. (Previously canceled.)